

# American

## NEWS & VIEWS

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## G7 Pledges to Support Global Economic Recovery

By MacKenzie C. Babb | Staff Writer

Washington — Finance officials from the Group of Seven (G7) industrialized nations pledged to work together to support the global economy as it faces “significant challenges” to recovery.

“We are taking strong actions to maintain financial stability, restore confidence and support growth,” the group said in a communiqué issued September 9 at the top of a three-day meeting in Marseille, France.

Noting widespread fiscal deficits, heightened tensions in financial markets and the sovereign debt crisis in Europe, the G7 said there are “clear signs of a slowdown in global growth.” But the group pledged a “strong and coordinated international response” to these challenges.

The financial leaders from the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan said concerns over the pace and future of the recovery underscore the need for a concerted global effort in support of “strong, sustainable and balanced growth.”

“We must all set out and implement ambitious and growth-friendly fiscal consolidation plans rooted within credible fiscal frameworks,” the group said, pointing to a package President Obama put forth to strengthen growth and employment in the United States through public investments, tax incentives and employment measures while implementing reforms to restore fiscal sustainability.

The G7 also highlighted work European countries are doing to address financial tensions through structural reforms, and commended Japan’s implementation of substantial fiscal reconstruction measures after the devastating earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster in March.

The group emphasized the importance of achieving fiscal adjustment plans while supporting economic activity, and said monetary policy will maintain price stability and continue to support economic recovery. It also reaffirmed member countries’ shared interest in a strong and stable international financial system, and said the group will “take all necessary actions to ensure the resilience of banking systems and financial markets around the world.”

The G7 said it looks forward to working with colleagues in the Group of 20 and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the coming weeks to rebalance demand and strengthen global growth by implementing a series of structural reforms.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said the global economic recovery is in the midst of a slowdown, and there are limits on what policy can do to help strengthen growth.

But in a September 8 statement, Geithner named three important steps financial leaders should take to regain momentum. First, he called for the U.S. Congress to pass Obama’s American Jobs Act package to strengthen growth and employment. He also said Europe should restore confidence that it can resolve its debt crisis by enhancing cooperation between sovereign governments and the European Central Bank, ensuring governments can borrow at sustainable interest rates as they reform. Finally, he called on China and other emerging economies to continue to strengthen domestic demand while allowing their exchange rates to adjust to market forces.

“The outlook is not all dark,” Geithner said, pointing to a recent drop in oil prices, continued growth in emerging markets and the IMF’s forecast that the world economy will continue to expand at a moderate pace in coming months.

He said international cooperation will play a key role in strengthening the global economic recovery. Geithner added that, while much work remains, the world community is “better off doing it together.”

## Pacific Island Leaders Look to Expand and Sustain Growth

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr. | Staff Writer

Washington — Leaders of the Pacific islands at an annual forum in New Zealand have recognized the importance of focusing regional efforts on the economic sectors where they hold an advantage — tourism, fisheries and agriculture.

During their annual forum in Auckland, New Zealand, September 7–8, members of the Pacific Islands Forum also highlighted the importance of education, energy and infrastructure in creating an environment for sustainable economic development, the leaders said in a communiqué at the conclusion of the conference.

To underscore the U.S. commitment to the Pacific region, Deputy Secretary of State Tom Nides led the largest and highest-level U.S. delegation to ever participate in the annual forum.

“The size and scope of the delegation — which includes senior officials from the White House, departments of State, Defense, Commerce, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Coast Guard and the Peace Corps — demonstrate U.S. commitment to the security and economic prosperity of the Pacific,” the

State Department said in a fact sheet released in Washington on September 7.

After addressing the forum September 7, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told reporters he attended the forum to promote concern for global climate change. In the forum communiqué, leaders said that “climate change remains the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and well-being of the peoples of the Pacific.” Forum leaders said they wanted Ban to see firsthand the adverse impact of climate change and the rise of sea levels on their island nations.

USAID announced that it will open a Pacific office in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, before the end of 2011, and the office will administer a \$21 million grant to support climate change adaptation in the Pacific Small Island Developing States and strengthen the region’s capacity to improve food and water security, protect highly sensitive ecosystems, and access global climate change information and resources.

The Pacific islands also reaffirmed regional solidarity for effective management and conservation of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean. “Leaders particularly emphasized the significance of the Multilateral Fisheries Treaty and urged an early conclusion of negotiations aimed at securing fair and maximum returns to the Pacific Islands parties,” the communiqué said.

Forum leaders also recognized the value of reliable transport links, secure access to energy and other infrastructure that is necessary for regional economic development. On tourism, the island nations acknowledged the significant contribution of tourism to the generation of new jobs.

The United States said it will work with Pacific island nations on programs for weather services and disaster preparedness, coral reef and marine conservation, invasive species, pollution and waste, and forests. “USAID is partnering with the New Zealand Aid Program on a cooperative waste management project in Kiribati that will help the government of Kiribati tackle municipal waste management issues, including collection, segregation and proper long-term disposal,” the Washington fact sheet said.

The United States is working with Pacific island nations in securing and removing explosive remnants from World War II and in enhancing maritime domain awareness — which is critical to combating piracy, illegal fishing and transnational crime in the Pacific.

The United States, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the World Bank Group will sponsor three

policy dialogues on the Women’s Empowerment Initiative in the Pacific Region, which was launched by the U.S. State Department in November 2010. The third dialogue will be hosted by the United States and Australia and bring together government officials, representatives from nongovernmental organizations and academics from 14 countries to focus on the best means to prevent gender-based violence across the Pacific region.

Also, the State Department, USAID and the New Zealand Aid Program have begun working on a collaborative assessment of farm policy constraints in Papua New Guinea affecting food security.

Leaders from Australia, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu attended the two-day conference. Vanuatu was represented by its special envoy, and New Caledonia and French Polynesia attended the forum as associate members.

Leaders and representatives from Timor-Leste, Tokelau, Wallis and Futuna, the Asian Development Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the United Nations, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, and the World Bank attended as observers.

### **Bushehr Fuel Deal Shows There Is No Need for Iranian Enrichment**

By Stephen Kaufman | Staff Writer

Washington — The Obama administration noted the official inauguration of Iran’s Bushehr nuclear reactor and says the agreement by which Russia will be providing uranium for the facility as well as taking back its spent fuel “underscores the point that Iran doesn’t need its own enrichment facilities.”

Speaking to reporters in Washington September 12, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the deal with Russia shows that Iran “can receive fuel from the international community” to power its civilian nuclear program.

Representatives from France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Russia, China and the United States — collectively known as the P5+1 — have repeatedly tried to engage Iran on its nuclear activities over concerns that its stated civilian program is being used as a cover for a nuclear weapons program.

The P5+1 proposed a deal with Iran in October 2009 that would have provided Iran’s Tehran Research Reactor with enriched uranium fuel and would have required that the enrichment be done in another country to ensure that uranium would not be enriched to a level that could be

used for nuclear weapons.

Iran ultimately rejected the offer, and has since declared that it is enriching its own uranium fuel supplies.

In remarks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in October 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Iran "is entitled to peaceful nuclear energy, but ... it is not entitled to nuclear weapons."

According to press reports, Iranian officials have said the 1,000-megawatt Bushehr nuclear plant has begun to generate 350–400 megawatts of electricity, or to 35 percent to 40 percent of the reactor's full capacity, and will reach its full capacity by the end of 2011.

Nuland said the international community is looking to Russia to ensure that nuclear materials are not diverted from the facility and that it takes back the spent uranium fuel.

She also noted that with the opening of the nuclear plant, "Iran is now the only country in the world with an operating power reactor that has not ratified the Convention on Nuclear Safety."

"In the wake of the Fukushima incident, this is quite troubling," she said, referring to the nuclear accident in March at Japan's Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear power plant in which reactor cores overheated and allowed radiation to escape the plant, forcing the evacuation of people in the surrounding area and tainting food supplies.

"More broadly, the Bushehr opening doesn't change the fact that Iran still has to meet its larger obligations to the international community and the [International Atomic Energy Agency]" to fully disclose its nuclear activities, Nuland said.

### **State Dept. on Killing of Syrian Rights Activist Ghiyath Mattar**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson  
September 11, 2011

STATEMENT BY VICTORIA NULAND,  
SPOKESPERSON

#### **Killing of Syrian Human Rights Activist Ghiyath Mattar**

The United States condemns in the strongest possible terms the killing of Syrian human rights activist Ghiyath Mattar while in the custody of Syrian Security Forces. We offer our deepest condolences to his family and friends as they mourn their loss. Ghiyath, along with leading activist Yahya Sharbaji and a number of other human rights

activists committed to non-violent resistance, was detained on September 6. Ghiyath Mattar's courage in the face of the Asad regime's brutal repression is well known in his home of Daraya and across Syria. His brave commitment to confronting the regime's despicable violence with peaceful protest serves as an example for the Syrian people and for all those who suffer under the yoke of oppression.

We stand with the Syrian people in their resistance to tyranny. We call on the Asad regime to immediately cease all violence against the Syrian people and release all political prisoners. We again call on Asad to step aside and allow the Syrian people to embark upon the democratic transformation they demand.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov>)